

largely run by volunteers who spend countless hours in support of young people and their development. Furthermore, organizations such as Friends of Minority Figure Skating in Cleveland, OH, and the Kids on Ice Program of Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, DC, create opportunities for young people who would not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the sport.

At the conclusion of this National Skating Month, I commend parents, coaches, skating clubs, service organizations, and skaters, both youth and adult. Their hard work and sportsmanship is well worth recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LUNG
CANCER CIRCLE OF HOPE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Lung Cancer Circle of Hope's President Susan Levin on her efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of radon. Radon, a radioactive gas that accumulates inside buildings, is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States behind cigarette smoke. Yet, many Americans have never even considered testing their homes for dangerous amounts of radon.

This January, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, has declared National Radon Action Month, the Lung Cancer Circle of Hope rightly urged families across New Jersey to test their homes for radon. This poisonous gas can enter homes through a variety of ways and then collect indoors. The result can be a health threat that you cannot see, smell, or taste.

Every year, over 160,000 Americans die from lung cancer and the EPA estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 of those devastating losses. Many of those radon-induced cancers could have been prevented had more homes and offices been tested for radon. Once again, I applaud Susan and her organization for their aggressive public education campaign to spread the word about radon to New Jersey families.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues two very important statements affirming the historical significance of the Holocaust by our new Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, at the U.N. in New York.

The Secretary-General's first statement on January 17 stresses the uniqueness and undeniability of the Holocaust as a tragic historical event, and reaffirms the United Nations' commitment to observe the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust annually on January 27. Secretary-General Ban's strong statement demonstrates that he is com-

mitted to fulfill Kofi Annan's legacy as the first Secretary-General who dedicated himself to moving the United Nations past its sad and crippling legacy of anti-Semitism.

The second statement, made on January 26, welcomes the adoption of a U.N. resolution refuting the putrid attempt by the Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to sow discord and hatred in the international community by attempting to deny the historical reality of Hitler's systematic slaughter of millions of Jews. Secretary Ban's statement demonstrates strong leadership in facing down the Iranian dictator by declaring the denial of historical events to be "unacceptable."

The new Secretary-General deserves our strong support as he moves forward in his effort to confront the anti-Semitic climate that pollutes the United Nations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN MESSAGE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS MEMORIAL DAY, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF REASSERTING COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Following is the text of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's message for the second observance of the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, to be observed on 27 January:

The Holocaust was a unique and undeniable tragedy. Decades later, the systematic murder of millions of Jews and others retains its power to shock. The ability of the Nazis to command a following, despite their utter depravity, still strikes fear. And above all, the pain remains: for ageing survivors, and for all of us as a human family that witnessed a descent into barbarism.

The work of remembrance pays tribute to those who perished. But it also plays a vital role in our efforts to stem the tide of human cruelty. It keeps us vigilant for new outbreaks of anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. And it is an essential response to those misguided individuals who claim that the Holocaust never happened, or has been exaggerated.

The International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is thus a day on which we must reassert our commitment to human rights. That cause was brutally desecrated at Auschwitz, and by genocides and atrocities since.

We must also go beyond remembrance, and make sure that new generations know this history. We must apply the lessons of the Holocaust to today's world. And we must do our utmost so that all peoples must enjoy the protections and rights for which the United Nations stands.

On this International Day, I reiterate my strong commitment to that mission, and call on all to join in our common quest for human dignity.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON HOLOCAUST DENIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The Secretary-General welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly today of a resolution unequivocally condemning any denial of the Holocaust.

This reflects the prevailing view of the international community. The Secretary-General reiterates his conviction that the denial of historical facts such as the Holocaust is unacceptable. He expresses his strong desire to see this fundamental principle respected both in rhetoric and in practice.

IN HONOR OF VICTOR J. FERLISE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Victor J. Ferlise, the deputy to the commanding general at the Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in New Jersey. It is with great pride and admiration that I honor him today for his long standing commitment to Fort Monmouth and the State of New Jersey for the past 36 years.

Throughout my 18 years in Congress, I have worked closely with Vic on issues pertaining to the Fort Monmouth community. He has always been a good friend and has worked tirelessly to provide life-saving equipment and technology for American soldiers.

Vic began his career in government service at Fort Monmouth in 1971. He served as the chief counsel of the Legal Office at Fort Monmouth before earning the title of deputy to the commanding general. Currently, Vic continues to serve as deputy, overseeing five major business units of the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command at Fort Monmouth.

He is responsible for the Command Legal Office and the Homeland Security Special Projects Office, and is a member of the New Jersey Research and Development Council. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Monmouth Medical Center and the First Atlantic Federal Credit Union.

Furthermore, Vic has been recognized numerous times for his outstanding contributions to State and Federal Government. His awards include several civilian awards and decorations, including the Distinguished and Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards and the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award. In 2006, he was also the recipient of the highest civilian honor at the Department of Defense, the Distinguished Civilian Service Award. These accolades only serve as further evidence of his unwavering dedication to public service.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Victor J. Ferlise for his contributions to our country, the State of New Jersey and the Fort Monmouth community. I wish him luck in his future endeavors and congratulate him on 36 years of outstanding service.

HONORING THE 30 YEAR SERVICE
OF BRENDA WRIGHT TO THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Brenda Wright, a long-time House Armed Services Committee Employee, on her retirement after 30 years of exemplary and professional service.

Throughout her tenure on the committee, Ms. Wright has been a selfless and dedicated employee and public servant. After serving for six years at the Interstate Commerce Commission, Brenda joined the House Armed Services Committee on February 14, 1977. Initially,

she provided administrative support for the Sea Power subcommittee chaired by Charles E. Bennett and was promoted to her current position as Professional Staff Member on the full committee in 1988.

During the past 30 years, Ms. Wright has served seven committee chairmen, including myself, and has witnessed many pivotal moments in U.S. Congressional and military history. The House Armed Services Committee has been fortunate to benefit from the contributions of those who, like Brenda, not only have a great deal of experience, but who also appreciate and understand the history and the workings of this committee. Brenda joined the Congressional community at a time when our military faced the challenges of the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and since then, her efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform have been consistent and unwavering. Recently, she recalled that one of the highlights of her tenure was the opportunity to personally witness the commissioning of the USS Cincinnati Los Angeles-class submarine and to stand among the service members who serve our nation so capably.

Madam Speaker, public perception of Congress frequently seems to be based on the personalities and characters of a few powerful figures. However, as one who shares Brenda's long tenure on the Hill, I know that Congress relies on the dedicated staff who steadfastly complete their work in the shadow of the dome and in the shadow of the limelight. Brenda Wright has gained a well-earned reputation as a dependable, loyal, and capable staff member whose absence will be felt by all who have had the privilege of working with her.

On behalf of all of the members of the House Armed Services Committee and her colleagues on the HASC staff, I congratulate Brenda on her upcoming retirement and thank her for her exemplary public service. With deep appreciation, we extend sincere best wishes to Brenda, her sons Robert and Lavan and their families for continued health and happiness.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
BRANDON L. STOUT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Brandon L. Stout, who died on January 22, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Stout, who was 23 years old, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion, Army National Guard, Kingsford, Michigan.

Brandon was raised in Kent City, Michigan. He met his future wife Audrey while attending Great Lakes Christian College from August, 2002 to May, 2003. They married in May of 2005.

Brandon's faith was an important part of his life, and he hoped to pursue a vocation in ministry. He felt called to serve his country and joined the Army National Guard in June 2003.

In 2005 he was deployed to Louisiana for nearly two months as part of the Hurricane Katrina response. Brandon trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey beginning in July 2006 and was deployed to Baghdad on October 1, 2006. He earned his promotion to Specialist in December of 2006. Brandon was looking forward to a scheduled two-week leave with his wife, family and friends.

Brandon is survived by his wife; his mother and step-father, Tracy and Jeff Anderson; his father and step-mother, Bill and Tammy Stout; and his brother, Adam. His extended family includes Andrew, Elizabeth, Stephanie and Christine Anderson; Stephanie Stout and Callie McGee; Gary and Laurie Hinken; Dusty and Lisa VanderMeer; and Marianne and Lindsey Hinken.

Specialist Stout's family and friends consider him a role model and a hero. He was dedicated to serving his country, was steadfast in his faith and deeply loved his wife and family. I extend my prayers and condolences to his family and friends and hope that they find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
JONATHAN KINGMAN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier, and one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Jonathan Kingman of Ohio.

Sergeant Kingman was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, and graduated from Mapleton High School, where he sang in the school choir, played basketball, and was a member of the track team.

Jonathan Kingman died on January 20, 2007, in Iraq, while serving his second tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Age 21, he is survived by loving family, including his wife, children and parents.

In reading of Jonathan's life and speaking with his family members, Madam Speaker, I was touched by the dramatic impact this young man had on the lives of so many.

Like others before him, from farms, fields, and small towns across our land, Jonathan Kingman stood up and volunteered to serve his country.

He fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his state, and his nation.

For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Jonathan will be missed. But the strength of his character, and the courage he demonstrated through his service, will live on.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMFORT
WOMEN RESOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the over 200,000 "comfort

women" in Asia who suffered unimaginable dehumanization by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

These women, whose experiences were unprecedented in cruelty and were officially commissioned by the Government of Japan, endured gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide—and to this date, they have still not received justice from this tragedy.

Their hope is a modest one: That the government of Japan acknowledges, apologizes and accepts full historical responsibility for this crime.

Today, I am introducing a resolution which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy which the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

Some question whether this resolution is necessary and warn that it could affect our nation's strong friendship and alliance with Japan. Some even argue that Japan has already apologized, and this resolution fails to recognize that. It is true that Japan's previous Prime Ministers have issued statements related to comfort women. However, it is clear that these statements are not viewed by the government of Japan with unequivocal respect, and the comfort women themselves do not consider them formal apologies. Japan has equivocated in its stance on this issue, which is made clear in their recent attempts to alter previous public statements and their school textbooks.

For example, in 1993, Japan's then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued an encouraging statement regarding Japan's comfort women, which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal. Today, some members of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party strive to review and even possibly rescind Secretary Kono's statement.

Further, the Japanese government continues to seek to downplay the comfort women system in its textbooks. We must ask ourselves, if Japan has truly come to terms with its past in acknowledging what its Imperial Army forced upon these women, why are they suppressing the knowledge of this through education? Education on this tragedy is important to ensure that future violence against women, especially in conflicts, should not be tolerated or repeated. Textbook suppression, coupled with efforts to revise Secretary Kono's 1993 statement, is disheartening and indicates that Japan wavers in its apology to these women.

I want to make it clear that I recognize and value the importance of our strong friendship with Japan. I appreciate Japan's efforts to provide monetary compensation to surviving comfort women through the Asia Women's Fund, a government-initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the comfort women. The Asia Women's Fund is to be disbanded on March 31, 2007, and while I agree that the Asia Women's Fund was important, the reality is that the majority of surviving